



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, May 22, 2006

For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

CALIFORNIA RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS IN PRISON FOR FALSE STATEMENTS DURING GUN PURCHASES

PHOENIX – Antonio Gonzalez, 23, of Long Beach, Calif., was sentenced here today to two years in prison by U.S. District Judge Earl H. Carroll for four counts of False Statements in Connection With the Acquisition of Firearms. Judge Carroll also imposed a \$5,000 fine against Gonzalez and ordered him to self-surrender by June 26, 2006 to the U.S. Marshal's Service.

On March 10, 2006, Gonzalez was found guilty of the four felony offenses by a jury in Prescott, Ariz. At trial, the government presented evidence that Gonzalez had purchased at total of 18 firearms, including 17 handguns and one rifle, on four separate occasions from a federally licensed firearms dealer in Bullhead City, Ariz.

During each purchase, Gonzalez falsely filled out the required forms, falsely advised the dealer that he was a resident of Arizona and presented a suspended Arizona driver's license bearing an address at which he no longer resided. At the time of each purchase, Gonzalez was a resident of Long Beach, Calif., had an active California driver's license, drove a car registered to him in California, received his mail and worked for a relator in California.

Six of the 18 guns were seized by ATF after the final purchase. The State of California has restrictions on the purchase of handguns from licensed dealers that do not exist in Arizona including mandatory registration in a state run data base.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Mohave County Sheriff's Office. The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick A. Battista.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-932-01-PCT-EHC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-080(Gonzalez)

###